1: Cohen, Ronald. The Kanuri of Bornu. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1967.

Pp. x, 115; 2 plates (4 photographs); 1 map.

Yale: Nkd81 K139 967C. DLC: DT515.42.C6. DLC card no.: 67-11751.

/In this monograph the author focuses upon several selected aspects of Kanuri society which reveal a distinctive and patterned set of social relationships underlying and integrating the prime institutional areas of Kanuri life. The Kanuri household is shown as the basic social structure in which the pattern of superior/subordinate social relationships are established. Cohen's analysis of the economic life, as well as the Kanuri political structure, emphasizes the interrelation of these areas with the basic household unit. The interpersonal relationships characterizing family life and the household also permeate these other areas. The study is enhanced by the frequent description of individual cases. Separate chapters are devoted to the family and the household, the life cycle, economic life, and the political organization. His limitation of the study to these few areas is discussed in the concluding section. Important areas which are omitted, or merely mentioned in passing, include: religion and Islamic ceremonial life, the belief system of the Kanuri and modal personality traits. The author, an American anthropolgist, conducted field work in Bornu for twenty-six months. He made use of participant observation, interviewing, questionnaires, and historical archives. Cohen spoke the Kanuri language and was aided in the field work by his wife and by trained Kanuri assistants. The first

1: Cohen

chapter contains a brief but useful description of his field experience and his own orientation in ethnographic theory. One chapter is devoted to the many centuries of Bornu history and provides the background for cultural traits which persist to the present day. The persistence of some traditional social modes despite modern trends and political change is discussed./

Field date: 1956-1965
Analyst: Irving Rosenthal

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1970

2: Rosman, Abraham. Social structure and acculturation among the Kanuri of northern Nigeria. Doctoral dissertation in anthropology submitted to Yale University in 1962. University Microfilms Publications, no. 66-2677. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, 1966.

5, 379 l.: 47 text figures; 4 tables.

HRAF copy.

[This doctoral dissertation examines the issue of acculturation. In it the author explores the question: How does acculturation differ among differing groups in an urban community? He describes Kanuri social structure and focuses on how it guides and directs acculturation. His independent variable, the social structure, is however itself undergoing change concurrently, and this is the author's second theme. Thirdly, he examines the mechanism whereby the existing Kanuri social structure retains its essential integration, during the ongoing process of change. To provide a background for exploring the above issues in acculturation, the author first describes the general features of Kanuri culture. Thus, the first half of this work includes discussion of the Kanuri economy, the political organization, religion, and Kanuri social organization, beginning with the family, the distinctive Kanuri household, and the kinship system. Special attention is paid to the system of social stratification. This study of the Kanuri of Bornu, a province in northeastern Nigeria, has two primary aspects: 1) A community study of a large town in Bornu; and, 2), presentation and analysis of data concerning the extent of acculturation in a sample of 44 Kanuri. There is a lengthy and sound presentation of

2: Rosman

the theoretical issues underlying the author's approach to the process of acculturation. A preponderance of the material is based on Rosman's one year of field research. The author and his wife, a trained psychologist, employed participant observation, questionnaires, and intensive interview of 44 Kanuri adults, on whom he offers extensive data based upon an instrument he devised to measure acculturation. Material on the history of the Kanuri is very meager. (A very adequate coverage of Kanuri history can be found in source 1: Cohen, Ronald, MS14 Kanuri.) A weakness in his methodology (the procedure in selecting the sample) is discussed and held by the author to be minimal. This aspect of the study, along with the size of some of the groups in his sample, warrants further scrutiny.]

Field date: 1956-1957
Analysts: Irving Rosenthal, marker
Helen Gunsher Bornstein, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1970-1972

St Cohen, Ronald. The structure of Kanuri society. Dissertation (Anthropology) -- University of Wisconsin, 1960. University Microfilms Microfilm 60-986. Ann Arbor, University microfilms, 1960.

16. 361 l.; 8 charts and diagrams; 19 tables; 1 map; bibliography.

HRAF copy.

[This is the author's Ph. D. dissertation in anthropology submitted to the University of Wisconsin. It contains a good, detailed analysis of Kanuri social organization focusing on the sociopolitical system. Cohen shows how the patterning of interpersonal relations at the kinship-marriage-family-household level carries over into the wider-scaled structures of economic and political organization, and social stratification. The basic objective of this study is to provide a description and explanation of trends of social change, conceptualized in terms of stability and instability in the social system. The major hypothesis generated through this analysis is that the stability of the Kanuri social system is based on the processes whereby "the society is cross linked by class and status on the one hand which bring together people of similar goals, rank, class and wealth; and on the other hand, by feudal chains of superior/subordinate relations that link up individuals into a vertical system of loyalties so that a man's ties are both with his class and with his superiors" (p. 353). Thus any weakening or disruption of these cross linkages would result in instability and further social change. This interpretation is said to be in line with Gluckman's theoretical position as set forth in his Custom and Conflict in Africa (1955).

3: Cohen, Ronald.

Certain categories of data are explicitly omitted by the author as irrelevant to his analysis. Among these is religion; yet it does seem strange that in a Muslim society various ritual roles, groups, and categories would not be integrally involved in the system of sociopolitical relations.

Cohen, accompanied by his wife, did most of his field work in the village of Magumeri (population ca. 2,000), and in the surrounding hamlets of the Magumeri village area. He also made a number of trips to the larger village of Geidam in the north, where another anthropologist, Abraham Rosman, and his wife were working. Finally, Cohen and his wife lived for the last three months of their research in Maiduguri, the capital of Bornu Emirate. After the first four months, according to Cohen, most of his research was conducted in the Kanuri language.

Cohen's concept of the "extended household organization" has been marked for category 621 since it denotes a unit composed of more than one household (in OCM terms), and thus may be viewed as a local subdivision of a community.]

Field date: 1956-1957
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé, marker
Sigrid Khera, checker

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-4, 5
Processed in 1969-1970

4: Cohen, Ronald. The success that failed: an experiment in culture change in Africa. Anthropologica, n.s., 3 (1961): 21-36. Ottawa, University of Ottawa, Canadian Research Center for Anthropology, 1961.

HRAF copy.

[In this brief article, the author analyzes the failure of an agricultural experiment which was designed to introduce a new type of fertilizer to Kanuri peasants. He points to the importance of studying the cultural and psychological context of innovation before attempting to introduce Western technology to underdeveloped areas of the world. The information is based on fieldwork carried out by the author between January, 1956 and August, 1957.]

Field date: 1956-1957
Analysts: Helen Gunsher Bornstein, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist - 5
Processen in 1972